Marlborough News

www.themarlborughscienceacademy.co.uk

23rd October 2026 Issue #152

The Marlborough Science Academy

'shaping futures'

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you enjoy reading our first newsletter of the year.
From my perspective this has been a very busy but very productive first half term of the year. I have very much enjoyed starting to get to know our students as well as the 179 staff here at Marlborough. I have particularly enjoyed watching the rehearsals for the schools forthcoming production of Bugsy Malone progress, and I would warmly encourage you to come and watch the performance on the 9th, 10th and 11th December.

Staffing update
Miss Bassett, Teacher of Kings Trust and Mrs Del Gaudio Teacher of PRE and Ethical studies are now on maternity leave. Miss Deniz Teacher of Computer Science is also taking maternity leave at the end of this half term.
Mrs Metson, Teacher of English will be retiring at the end of this term, I wish her all the best in her next steps. I am pleased to share that Miss Clark will be moving roles to now work within her specialism as our new Teacher of English.
The school is currently adverting for additional Assistant Teachers to enhance our SEN department, details of current vacancies can be found here.

Mobile Phone pouches update
The vast majority of students have accepted with real maturity the schools change of approach to mobile phone use and deserve credit for quickly adapting to our new expectations. On 2nd November the school will be issuing Hush mobile phone pouches for all students in Years 7-11. I would be grateful if you could take some time to read through the school's updated mobile phone policy, this can be accessed on our website. The key message from me to the students is we are making this change to both support their learning and wellbeing.

Car Parking Reminder / Car Parking & Being Considerate to local residents

A polite reminder that parents/carers are not permitted to park on school site, this is for health and safety reasons, unfortunately there is simply not sufficient space to enable this to happen for all parents. If you or your child has an accessibility need, please do contact the school reception in the first instance and we can arrange for a pass.

A number of local residents have also contacted me to request that I remind parents dropping off or collecting their children to be considerate and respectful, specifically this includes not blocking driveways or parking on double yellow lines. Thank you in advance for being considerate of our local residents.

I hope you enjoy a good half term break. School returns on 2nd November for all students.

Best wishes,

Caroline Legg
Headteacher

The Marlborough Science Academy Ltd - Watling Street
St Albans – Hertfordshire - AL1 2QA
Tel: 01727 856 874 Email: admin@marlborough.herts.sch.uk
www.themarlboroughscienceacademy.co.uk Company No: 08003969

The Marlborough Science Academy

Quote of the Week

" Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear."
(Mark Twain, Writer)

themarlboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

The Marlborough Science Academy

Word of the week

- ***intrepidity (noun)***
  the quality of being fearless, daring and bold
- ***intrépidité (nom)***
  la qualité d'être intrépide, audacieux et courageux
- ***intrepidez (sustantivo)***
  la cualidad se ser audaz, atrevida y audaz

themarlboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

Charity Fundraiser Update

In our July 2026 issue we shared Saphina's amazing act of Compassion, Kindness and Courage to raise money for The Little Princess Trust by shaving off her hair. Here is an update from Saphina who is now in Year 12.

In total, I raised £2885 and £595.75 in gift aid for The Little Princess Trust charity, alongside all my hair. I shaved my head on the 29th of July (a week before my birthday), and since then my hair has grown back quite quickly (which is still extremely easy to take care of, one of my favourite things about having short hair).

For years, I had the plan to shave my head around my 18th birthday, but I made the decision to do it for my 16th instead when my mum suggested that I do it sooner and raise money to donate alongside my hair. I'm so glad I did it now, especially since I was able to promote the donation page through school and gain further support.

My family also helped me start my fundraising page, as well as helping me shave my head and giving me endless support the whole time. I can't thank them and everyone enough for all the kind words and donations I received, it meant so much to see the impact I was able to make.

When I cut off my hair, my friend Amelie also did so that we could both donate our hair, which made the experience so much more fun. After we helped each other cut it off, it definitely took some time to get used to not having long hair, but overall, it was just a really exciting day.

It means so much that I had the opportunity to do this as I was able to tell so many people about the fundraiser and gather donations from so many generous people. What started out as a hairstyle I wanted when I was 18, turned into an immense amount of money raised for such an important charity. It costs £700 to make just one wig, which is why the amount we raised was so crucial. Again, I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for all the donations and loving support.
Saphina







Little Princess Trust

COURAGE • COURAGE • COURAGE • COURAGE •

COMPASSION • COMPASSION • COMPASSION • COMPASSION •

KINDNESS • KINDNESS • KINDNESS • KINDNESS •

Student Achievement

From Marlborough Sports Hall to Representing Great Britain



Congratulations to Ronia in Year 11 who achieved an amazing milestone in her artistic roller-skating journey; from taking her very first steps on skates at Marlborough Sports Hall aged just three, to representing Great Britain in Figueres, Spain.

Ronia has grown up with a real love of skating a has dedicated countless hours to training, always showing passion, determination and commitment. Her journey hasn't always been easy - various injuries almost stopped her progress, but Ronia worked hard to come back stronger and continued to pursue the sport better than ever.

Last year, she became part of Quartet Kymera, skating alongside girls from across the country from different clubs. Building a successful quartet meant regular training, travelling and learning to perform together as a team. The girls competed at the National Quartet Championships in June, where they not only won it, but also achieved the qualification needed to compete internationally.





They then made history by becoming part of the first British quartets sent to compete internationally at the Cup de Europe in Figueres, Spain. This September, Ronia and her team represented Great Britain in the Cadet B Quartet category. Kymera achieved an impressive 4th place, narrowly missing out on a podium finish and achieving a personal best.



For Ronia and her family, seeing her journey develop from a little girl skating at her local sports hall to competing internationally for her country has been an incredibly proud moment. Her story is a wonderful reminder that big dreams can start in small, local places — and that passion, resilience, teamwork and determination can take you a very long way.



Student Achievement

Henry Competes at His First RC World Championships 🏆🇺🇸

Congratulations to Henry in Year 10 who recently travelled to Hutto, Texas, USA, to compete in his first 1/8 Nitro Buggy World Championships at the famous Thornhill Racing Circuit.

The event brought together some of the best RC racing drivers from around the world for a week of practice, qualifying and finals.

After spending practice learning the challenging circuit, Henry finished 142nd in seeding before producing a much stronger performance during qualifying. With several good qualifying rounds, including an 86th-place round, he climbed to 107th overall.

Henry was then placed into a very competitive final containing several top British and European drivers. He made an excellent start, moving up to 4th position within the opening three laps, before mistakes and an engine cut unfortunately dropped him back.

Henry also qualified 6th for the Junior World Final. After a brilliant start, he moved into 2nd place by lap three and battled amongst the leading group. Unfortunately, a crash entering the pits cost him significant time before a mechanical problem with the rear drivetrain eventually forced him to retire from the race.



Although the final results weren't what Henry had hoped for, his first World Championships provided an incredible amount of experience and helped him make major improvements to both his driving and technical understanding of the car.

Henry now returns to Europe to compete at the RedsGP in Italy in a couple of weeks, followed by his winter racing season and preparations for the Montpellier GP in France next February.

A fantastic experience at Henry's first World Championships and hopefully the first of many! 🏁







Year 7 Take on PGL – Marlborough Values in Full Swing!

9th–11th October | PGL Liddington, Swindon

150 Year 7 students, 16 staff, three days, countless memories and just a little bit of chaos (the organised kind, of course!).

From the dizzying heights of the giant swing to archery adventures, silent disco dance-offs and some VERY soggy encounters with the lake, our Year 7s certainly embraced every opportunity to make a splash!

The food was hearty, the laughter infectious, and despite being well fed, the endless supply of sweets emerging from bedrooms suggested we could have opened our very own tuck shop!
But amongst the thrills, spills and nonstop action came our proudest moment. Staff from other schools took the time to compliment our students on their impeccable manners, kindness and respect towards others. Now THAT is something worth celebrating!

A weekend of courage, friendship, resilience and memories to last a lifetime. Our Year 7s didn't just rise to the challenge – they absolutely smashed it!
Marlborough Values shining bright, even when we were soaking wet! 💙
Miss Pounnas



Year 13 Sociology Students Step Back in Time on Jack the Ripper Tour



In September, our Year 13 A Level Sociology students took to the streets of London's East End for a fascinating guided Jack the Ripper tour, marking the beginning of their studies in Crime and Deviance.

The trip provided students with a unique opportunity to step outside the classroom and explore the darker side of Victorian London, bringing sociological theories and concepts to life.

Led by an expert guide, students walked through the historic streets of Whitechapel, discovering the stories behind one of Britain's most infamous criminal cases. The tour offered fascinating insights into Victorian society, including poverty, inequality, policing, gender and the treatment of women.



It also encouraged students to consider how crime is represented in the media and how public perceptions of criminals and victims are shaped.

Throughout the tour, students demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm, asking thoughtful questions and engaging with the historical and sociological issues raised. Their curiosity and willingness to explore challenging topics made the experience particularly rewarding.



Miss Jones and I were extremely proud of the way our students conducted themselves throughout the day. Their maturity, impeccable behaviour and genuine engagement were a credit to both themselves and the school.

Mrs Cline



Wilkes Street: Location where Jack the Ripper fled from his second victim, Annie Chapman. The building remains largely untouched from 1888 and has been used for filming television.



Thrawl Street and Ye Frying Pan: Last sighting of Jack the Ripper's first victim, Mary Ann Nichols. The original sculpture of the frying pans for the pub is still visible.

Safety and Security of our Students

Access to the school and behaviour around school by a small number of parents/carers has significantly deteriorated of late and so may I remind you of the following please:

- There is NO routine dropping off or collecting from school grounds of students by parents/carers at the beginning or end of the school day. Only those with specific permission and in possession of the appropriate pass issued by reception staff may do this. Please do not abuse or ignore this system, as it is in place for the safety and security of your children.

- Please make arrangements to drop and collect your child outside of school grounds to reduce the traffic for all the students at school. Please also be considerate to our neighbours when waiting for your child in surrounding roads. We have had a number of reports of abuse and unkindness displayed by our parents to the local residents recently which is disappointing. Where we can identify the vehicle involved, we do assist the person in passing this information onto the police, local traffic enforcement and local councillors where necessary.

- We also have a number of students who are dropped off exceptionally early at school. May I remind you that all students who arrive BEFORE 8am are to go to Pascal Hall and remain there until this time. This enables us to ensure their safety, especially if the grounds are icy. If they cannot abide by this, then you may need to find alternative early arrangements for them.

- If you are collecting your child from an after school club, please use the car park spaces provided and do not abandon your car within the minibus spaces, on pavements/verges or blocking the building site access. We are lucky enough to have an extensive parking area and so please use this. Alternatively, please arrange to meet your child off site to alleviate the traffic within school grounds at this time.

- I also need to remind all persons driving onto the school grounds that the speed limit is 5mph or less. Again this is in force to help keep your child safe whilst at school.



Thank you for your cooperation as always.
Mr Paice

COURAGE • COURAGE • COURAGE •

M Store

A Huge Thank You to the Rotary Club of St Albans Verulamium! 💚

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Rotary Club of St Albans Verulamium for their fantastic theatrical fundraising event, Home, I'm Darling!

Thanks to their incredible generosity and support, an impressive £500 has been raised to help fund the completion of the ceiling and insulation at The M Store, our on-site charity building.

This wonderful contribution brings us another step closer to completing this important project and making a real difference to our local community.

Thank you to everyone involved for your kindness, generosity and continued community spirit! 👏💚

Mrs Hicks
M Store Manager



Swimming Pool Refurbishment

Before the summer, our pool management company, Watersplash, held a couple of sponsored swim weekends to raise money for the refurbishment of the pool, as it required painting.

Due to the phenomenal response from their attendees, they managed to raise over £11,000 which is an amazing amount. In fact the response was so good, that it gave us an opportunity to tile some of the pool area too, thus making the pool look so much better and reducing maintenance costs in the future.

This was an extraordinary achievement by all the Watersplash team, giving up their weekends free of charge and encouraging more people to swim for a great cause.

Thank you to everyone involved in this project from Watersplash.
Mr Paice

The MO

New edition, new team, fresh designs and loads of interesting reads!
The October edition of The Mo is finally here!
Reading Festival, David Beckham, courage and careers... what's not to love?
Check out our October edition now!

Click on the image right to read.



Celebrating European Day of Languages

To celebrate European Day of Languages on 26th September, students across the school took part in two weeks of activities designed to celebrate languages and cultures from around the world. From language challenges and detective work to baking and an inspiring guest speaker, there was plenty for students to get involved in!



Our Year 7 and Year 8 students were each given a special Languages Passport, packed with challenges to complete throughout the week. These ranged from attempting a foreign-language tongue twister and building a Duolingo streak to listening to our amazing members of staff speaking in different languages.



Students also had the opportunity to explore different writing systems, learn some sign language and put their detective skills to the test by identifying and decoding unfamiliar languages. We even linked Languages Week with our school's Big Read, *The Bletchley Riddle.* Students explored the book covers and used their language detective skills to work out which languages the book had been translated into. It was a great way to show how stories, as well as languages, can cross borders and connect people around the world.

One of the highlights for Year 7 was our annual Languages Bake Off. Students produced an incredible selection of cakes inspired by different European countries and languages. We were hugely impressed by their creativity, imagination and baking skills – there were some fantastic designs!



Our Year 9 students also had the chance to hear from guest speaker Rob Hunt, who spoke about the exciting opportunities that learning languages can provide. He shared experiences from his career, including interpreting for some very famous names in football, and showed students how languages can open doors to careers and experiences they might never have considered.

Across the two weeks, students embraced the activities with enthusiasm and curiosity. Languages Week was a fantastic celebration of languages, cultures and communication, and a brilliant reminder that learning another language is about so much more than lessons and exams – it can connect us with people, places and opportunities all over the world.

Mrs Jubb

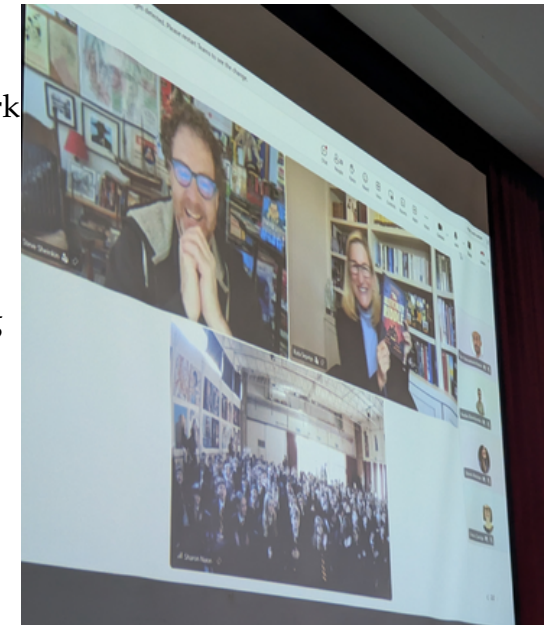
LRC NEWS

The first few weeks of this academic year have been the usual whirlwind of activity in the LRC. All Year 7 and 8 students have taken their first reading test of the year. We have been helping to launch our next Big Read and organising author visits along with hosting the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Manga Mania Quiz, English Showcase and House Pumpkin Carving competition.

The Big Read

Our Big Read for 2027 is **The Bletchley Riddle by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin** and we were delighted to organise a virtual visit from both authors on Monday 5th October. Despite a few technical issues, Steve in New York and Ruta in Nashville delivered a brilliant talk about their journey to becoming authors, the inspiration behind the book and the detailed research involved in writing it. The session included all Year 7 students in Da Vinci Hall and Year 8 and 9 students joining from their classrooms, and concluded with Ruta and Steve answering students' questions.

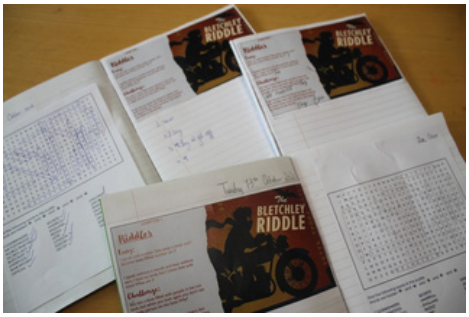
Ms Fogarty has persuaded lots of staff to record a chapter of the book which has been edited to create our own audio book for use in lessons. Thank you to Mr Lam for all his work on this. Mr Griggs also recorded a teaser trailer which you can see on our website here.



The book was officially launched on Monday 12th October with students in Years 7, 8 and 9 listening to chapters during lessons that week. Ms Branagan has produced some activities for students to do during their LRC lessons with their English teachers and the MFL department's quiz is the first of many cross-curricular activities planned for the Big Read throughout the year.

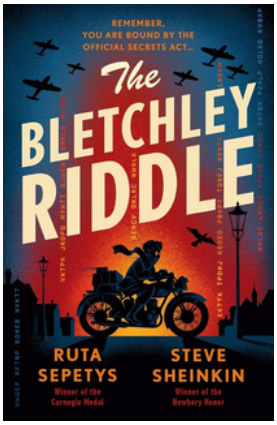
The Bletchley Riddle is a fast paced historical adventure set in nearby Bletchley Park during the summer of 1940, following the adventures of siblings Jakob and Lizzie Novis as they try to find out what happened to their mother alongside their work at the famous code-breaking station.





All students and staff who read the book and complete a short review will earn themselves a custom pin badge.



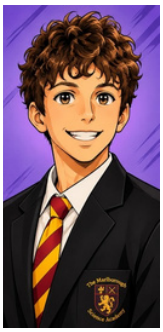


Manga Mania Quiz

On Thursday 15th October seven students from Years 7 - 10 took part in a very challenging quiz based on popular manga and anime. The quiz, organized by Lucas Maxwell, Librarian at Glenthorne Academy, had a total of 58 teams from schools across the country taking part. Both our teams finished around halfway on the leader board which was a fantastic result for their first time entering. Students from Year 7 - 13 can take part so if you know your manga you could join one of the teams next year.



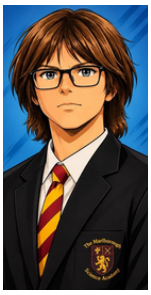




















Well done to all the students who took part and a big thank you to Ms Mitchell for all her help with the event.

Book Club

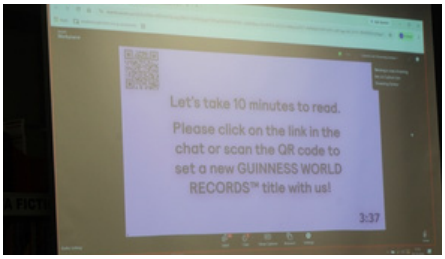
Book Club meets on Thursdays from 3.10-4.10pm in the LRC and is open to all year groups. This term we have taken part in a Guinness World Record attempt as part of the Take 10 to Read initiative. We joined participants across 85 countries and territories in one of the online sessions to read for 10 consecutive minutes.

We will find out if the record attempt was successful in November.

Members have also made their own folded paper book, played a book themed memory game, shared their recommendations and eaten lots of biscuits!

If you love to read, why not join us.





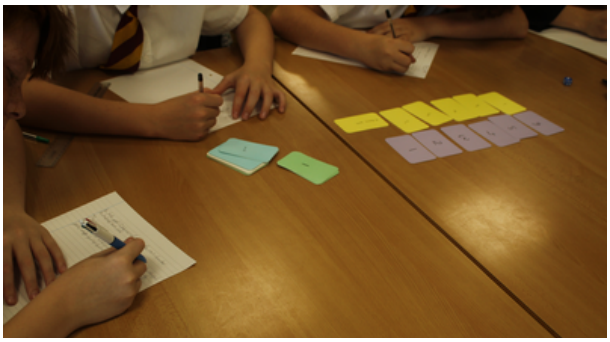




Penny Joelson Workshop



We were delighted to welcome back author Penny Joelson to run a creative writing workshop with some of our Year 8 students. Penny who is the author of our first ever Big Read, I Have no Secrets encouraged students to add twists and turns to their mystery stories by rolling a dice to see what would happen next. A few brave students then shared their short stories with the group.





Accelerated Reader

All students in Years 7 and 8 are enrolled in a reading scheme called Accelerated Reader. Students take a comprehension test to assess their reading ability and this helps to guide them to select appropriate reading material. When students finish a book on the scheme they can take a short online quiz to check their understanding of what they have read. Students earn house points for each quiz that they pass. These are added at the end of each half term.

Students can take Accelerated Reader book quizzes at home at any time. The link for Renaissance Learning, who host the quizzes, is in the useful links section of the school website. Students should know their username and password but if they have forgotten they can contact me on s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Nixon

1. Ishaan in Year 7 — 890,045 words read
2. Temitayo in Year 8 — 695,195 words read
3. Nikolas in Year 7 — 389,238 words read
4. Nye in Year 7 — 387,314 words read
5. Reuben in Year 7 — 369,559 words read
6. Lucy in Year 8 — 259,682 words read
7. James in Year 8 — 250,831 words read
8. Ruby in Year 8 — 238,902 words read
9. Alistair in Year 7 — 238,390 words read
10. Lara in Year 8 — 223,768 words read



Book Awards

Throughout the year we take part in several book awards, including the St Albans Schools Book Award, the Children's Book Award and The Carnegie Medal. If you are interested in taking part in any of these keep an eye out for information on the screens,
in the newsletter and in form time presentations.

In January we will be hosting the St Albans Schools Book Award for students in Year 8. To take part you need to read the three shortlisted books before the event on 21st January and be ready to share your opinion with students from other local schools.



We are also lucky enough to be a testing school for the longlist of the Children's Book Award which means we receive lots of brand new books to read and vote on, sometimes before they are even published! If you would like to have your say in the only children's book award voted for entirely by children come and see which books we currently have to test. This is open to all students from Year 7-13 and we have a mixture of genres to suit different ages and tastes. The books are changed regularly so check back often.



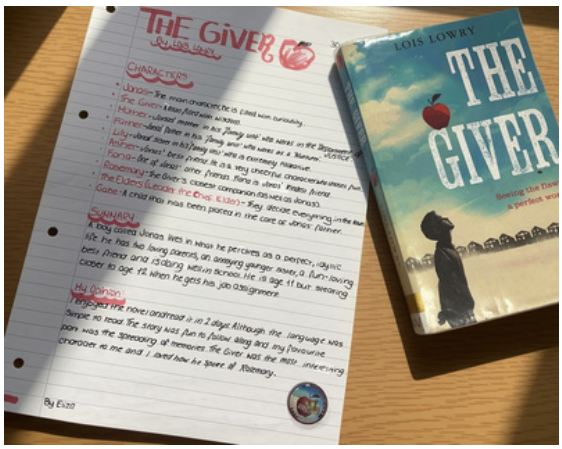
Children's Book Award
The Federation of Children's Book Groups

ENDEAVOUR • ENDEAVOUR • ENDEAVOUR • ENDEAVOUR

COURAGE • COURAGE • COURAGE • COURAGE

Book Reviews

We are always pleased to see what you thought of books you have read so don't forget to send in your reviews. If you write a review for any of our Big Reads you will receive a custom pin badge like Eliza in Year 9 did for her detailed review of The Giver by Lois Lowry. You can also submit online reviews on our LRC catalogue.



Baker's Books

It seems only fitting that my first book review should be of a novel written by one of my former students, Amy Leigh Chandler: Cornelia Fairfield and the Darkened Heart.



This YA pirate fantasy takes readers on a swashbuckling adventure full of magic, intrigue and power struggles. The central character, Cornelia, or Nelia, is a strong young woman facing a future trapped in a loveless arranged marriage. When she strikes a magical bargain to save her father, her life takes an unexpected turn, drawing her into the dangerous world of piracy and a struggle for power that could change everything. I really enjoyed the characters and thought the plot was engaging, with plenty to keep the reader entertained. At times, however, I found there were perhaps a few too many subplots, which made the story a little difficult to follow in places.

Despite this, I enjoyed the adventure and the imaginative world Amy has created. It was a pleasure to read a novel written by a former student, and I look forward to seeing what she writes next!

Mrs Baker



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 26th September. We really appreciate all the cakes and traybakes that were donated including those baked by students for the European Day of Languages Bake Off. Thank you to those parents and carers who came to the morning, staff who donated and bought cakes and for the students who polished off everything that was left at breaktime. Altogether we raised just over £770 for this amazing charity.

Mrs Eaton







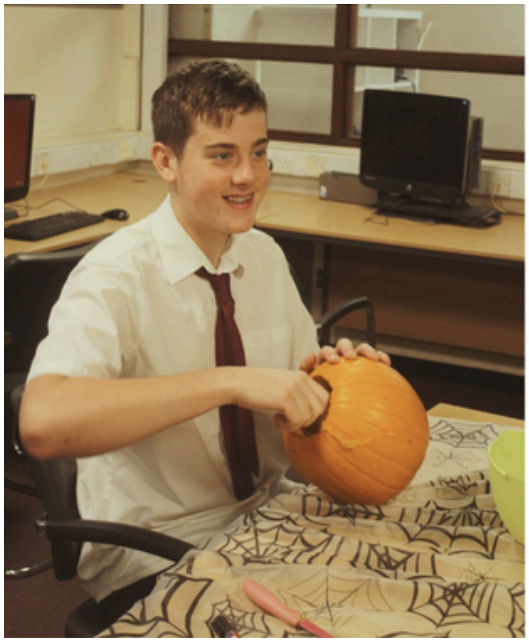




Some of our Year 11 students designing pumpkins to help decorate the LRC for Halloween season!







House Pumpkin Carving

Lunchtime on the last day of this half term saw the usual buzz of the House Pumpkin Carving Competition. Staff showed their competitive spirit and produced the usual high standard of designs.
Mr Vivian will judge his winner after school today so look out for the results after half term.















What's Your Next Step?

Year 9–13 students and their families are invited to our Next Steps Careers Information Evening on Wednesday 18th November, from 5pm at The Marlborough Science Academy!

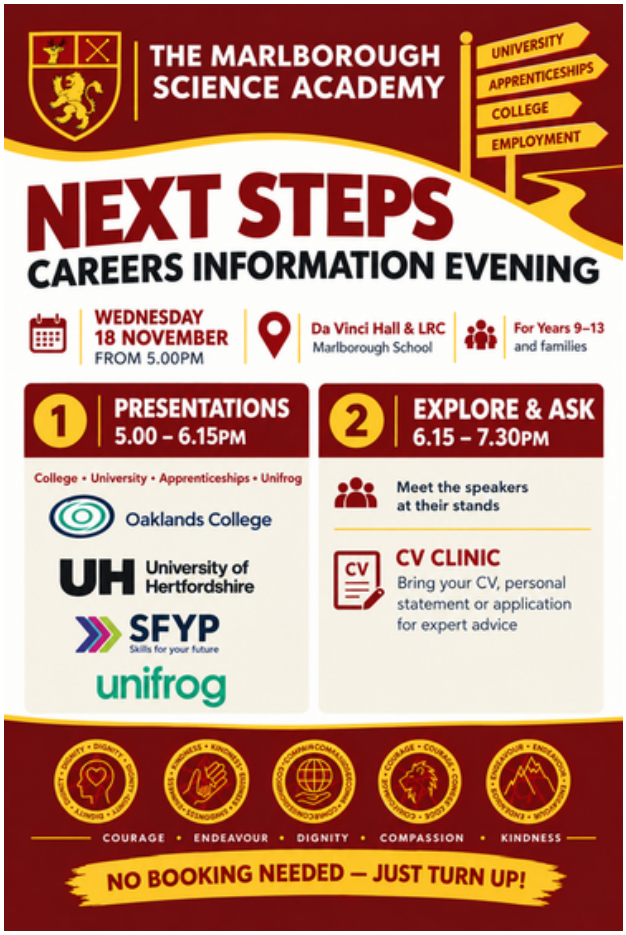
Whether you're considering college, university, apprenticeships or employment, this is a great opportunity to explore the options available and get advice to help you plan your future.

5.00–6.15pm: Presentations from Oakland College, the University of Hertfordshire, SFYP and Unifrog.

6.15–7.30pm: Explore the stands, meet the speakers and ask your questions.

CV Clinic: Bring along your CV, personal statement or application for expert advice.

There's something for everyone, so come along, discover your options and take your next step with confidence!
No booking needed – just turn up! We look forward to seeing you there.



Post 16 Open Evening



Join us for our Post 16 Open Evening on Wednesday 2nd December 2026 at 6pm.
As an Outstanding sixth form provider, we are passionate about fostering a love of learning, nurturing ambition and providing encouragement at every stage of your journey through Post-16 and beyond.
Starting with a presentation from the Heads of Sixth Form in the Da Vinci Hall, discover how TMSA can help you achieve your full potential and shape your future!

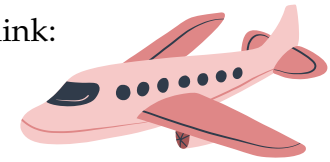
Travel Partnership with Pete and Laurelle at Not Just Travel

We've teamed up with local Personal Travel Consultants to help raise funds for the PTA. Pete & Laurelle are Personal Travel Consultants based in St Albans. They provide clients with FREE, independent travel advice and a reassuringly personal service.
Every time a booking is made through them, part of their commission goes straight back to the PTA to help fund some of the Academy's exciting initiatives.

They can plan everything from off-the-shelf packages from providers like TUI and Jet2 to bespoke holiday experiences tailored to your unique preferences and budget - saving you time, hassle, and often money in the process. Amongst other things, they curate city breaks, cruises, honeymoons, ski holidays, golf holidays, Disney & Santa breaks, rail adventures and tailored multi-centre itineraries all around the world. Holidays to suit all budgets.

For all your holiday enquiries to Pete & Laurelle, please use the following link:

https://notjustholidays.com/themarlboroughscienceacademy



Our PTA do a fantastic job supporting our school and last year raised £1800 just from their last two second hand uniform sales.
If you are interested in joining the PTA please contact Karen on m4krf@hotmail.com

Content Creation Club



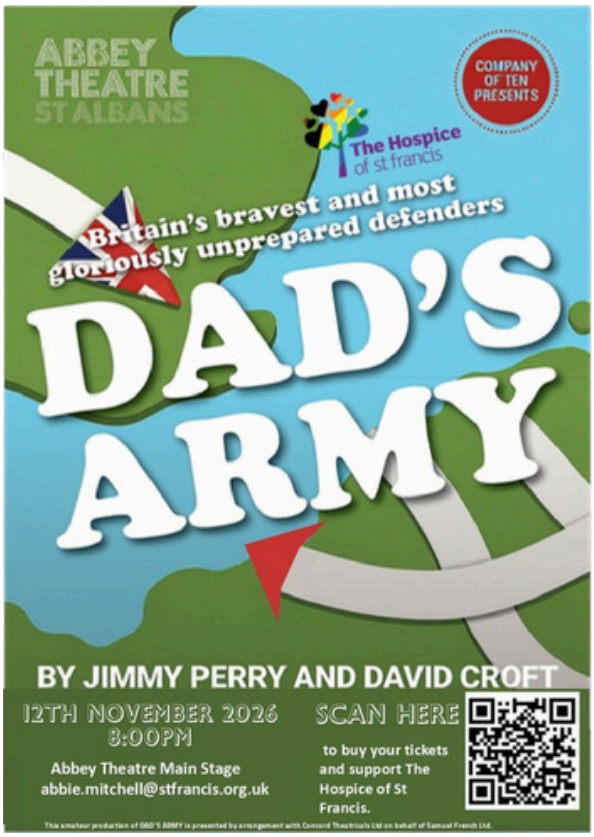
If you're interested in Graphic Design, Photography or Videography, the new Content Creation Club is on Tuesdays after school in FB3.

Bring your own ideas and personal projects to life, learn how to build a portfolio and get real world practice with client briefs.
Miss Demetriou John

Community News

If you plan to have a real tree this Christmas, please consider ordering from Christmas Treeasy, whihc is run by former Marlborough student Dean Turner. For each tree ordered the school will receive a small donation. for more details of prices and how to order click on the image below to visit their website.









Autumn Term 2026

Half Term – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October
Occasional Day - Friday 27th November
INSET DAY - Monday 30th November
End of Term - Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027

INSET DAY – Monday 4th January
First day back for ALL Students - Tuesday 5th January
Half Term – Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February
End of Term – Thursday 25th March
Good Friday - Friday 26th March
Easter Monday - Monday 29th March
Easter Break – Tuesday 30th March – Friday 9th April

Summer Term 2027

First day back for ALL Students - Monday 12th April
Half Term - Tuesday 1st June - Friday 4th June
End of Term - Tuesday 20th July 2027



If you have any questions and are not sure who to ask please click here for the general enquiry form

Marlborough News

An official publication of The Marlborough Science Academy Ltd, Watling Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 2QA #08003969
01727 856 874 | www.themarlboroughscienceacademy.co.uk
Please contact admin@marlborough.herts.sch.uk for any information regarding the content of this or future publications.